



Substance Abuse—Challenges and Strategic Solutions

Fargo, North Dakota • September 27–29, 2004

AGENDA

Day One: Monday, September 27

11:30 – 12:30 PM **Registration**

12:30 – 1:15 PM **Welcome and Introductions**

Thomas Sullivan, Regional Administrator, ACF Region VIII

John Hougen, TANF Administrator, ND Department of Human Services

John Horejsi, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network

José Rivera, J.D., Project Director, Welfare Peer TA Network

Federal and State representatives will welcome participants and provide a brief overview of the Welfare Peer TA Network and the goals of the roundtable. Participants will be seated by Region. The regions will be asked to spend five minutes focusing on their region's desired goal or outcome from this program. A spokesperson for the region will then introduce the region, the team and their desired outcome.

1:15 – 1:45 PM **Setting the Context**

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

Jeanette Hercik, Ph.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

Mary Nakashian, M.A., Consultant

Many TANF participants and their families are deeply affected by issues related to substance abuse. This introductory session will help to put the issue of substance abuse in a broader context. One such context is the reality that substance abuse rarely occurs absent some preceding or subsequent problem or issue. Another is the fact that systems which address substance abuse are related to and dependent upon systems that address issues such as TANF, child welfare, substance abuse/mental health and workforce development. Yet another context is one that reflects the strength and power associated with the process called recovery.



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1:45 – 3:15 PM

Inventory of Substance Abuse Challenges and Community Assets

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

Participants will be engaged in a facilitated discussion to identify North Dakota challenges and issues associated with substance abuse which impact the ability of local offices to move participants from TANF to work as soon as possible as well as the strengths in each regional district to meet the needs of TANF families.

3:15 – 3:30 PM

Break

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Causes, Symptoms and Treatment of Addiction

Sushma D. Taylor, Ph.D., Center Point, Inc.

Mary Nakashian, M.A., Consultant

The session will focus on understanding the science of and the differences among substance use, substance abuse and substance use disorder. The goal of this session will be to help participants understand not just what addiction is, what treatment does but also how to harness the energy associated with recovery in order to move TANF participants in recovery to self sufficiency.

5:00 – 5:30 PM

Day 1 Wrap-up and Day 2 Preview

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

Day Two: Tuesday, September 28

8:00 – 8:30 AM

Reflections on Day 1

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

Participants will be asked to briefly summarize their thoughts from the prior day's session and share any concerns about the current day's agenda.



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8:30 – 10:30 AM

Case Management Strategies: Supporting Substance Abuse Treatment

Sidney Schock, Carey Fry, Kathleen Moraghan, Cass County, ND
Mary Nakashian, M.A., Facilitator

In this session, participants from Cass County will describe their work in the pilot demonstration project, its achievements and recent recommendations and implementation strategies. Actual tools will be shared. Following the presentation and time for questions and answers, participants will engage in a case study exercise. Information on the case study will be provided in advance. The case study will allow the district teams to explore individual perceptions about substance abuse, identify particular challenges, and strategize solutions together.

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 – Noon

Respondent Panel and Discussion

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network
Cass County Panel
Sushma Taylor, Ph.D., Center Point, Inc.
Mary Nakashian, M.A., Consultant

Participants will have the opportunity, in this session, to ask questions or discuss issues flowing from the case study and the panel presentation.

Noon – 1:30 PM

Creating a Solution by Functional Area and Roundtable Discussion

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network
John Hougen, Facilitator

During this breakout session, participants will be re-seated along functional lines (TANF, Job Service, Child Welfare and Substance Abuse) to discuss the challenges of substance abuse from the perspective of their functional area. Team designees will then state the challenges and opportunities from each group's individual perspective and report the paramount problem and one proposed solution.



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1:30 – 2:15 PM

Closing the Loop: Integrating Family Centered Services for TANF

Participants with Substance Abuse Issues

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

John Hougen, Facilitator

Mary Nakashian, M.A., Consultant

Building on the previous session, the discussion will focus on the intersection and interdependence of TANF, Job Service, Child Welfare, and Substance Abuse Treatment. Particular attention will be paid to identifying challenges to serving families with multiple needs under (potentially) competing program requirements. This session will also focus on the challenges associated with moving individuals in recovery into the workplace and working with their families to advance family reunification and/or stabilization.

2:15 – 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Redefining Treatment as a Work Experience

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network, Facilitator

Mary Nakashian, M.A.

Sushma Taylor, Ph.D.

Panelists will explore how TANF programs can collaborate with substance abuse treatment services in order to better integrate vocational training and family support into the treatment continuum. Special emphasis will be placed on ways to make activities in the treatment continuum “countable” for TANF participation purposes. The panel will look to the treatment community to devise ways that they can re-frame work activities in treatment and TANF/Child Welfare participants will be asked how these new definitions can further their performance goals. The panel will also examine how the faith community can become an integral part of the countable work experience by using the work done as ministry as countable work experience.

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Exercise and Roundtable Discussion

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network, Facilitator

Each participant will be asked to look at the work they do and “create” some ideas or strategies for using the Power of Recovery and the activities of treatment as countable activity or as a vehicle for enhancing or promoting family stabilization. These unsigned “suggestions” will be collected and a sample of them will be read out loud and discussed by all present.



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4:30 – 4:45 PM

Day 2 Wrap Up and Day 3 Preview

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

Day Three: Wednesday, September 29

8:00 – 8:30 AM

Reflections on Days 1 and 2

Evaluation of Program

8:30 – 10:00 AM

Putting the Pieces Together: Strategizing Solutions for Your Region

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

During this session, participants will work in their Regional teams to apply the ideas and insights from the previous two days. Participants will focus on developing an Action Plan, with tangible goals, strategies and benchmarks. (Templates will be provided).

10:00 – 10:30 AM

Action Planning: Bridging the Gap

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

Building on the previous session, working groups will share their Action Plans. Other working groups will offer support, suggestions, lessons learned and recommendations, as appropriate. Discussion will include returning to previously articulated challenges and initiatives for guidance and closure. Ultimately, a list of challenges, targeted milestones, and promising practices will be developed.

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 – 11:15 AM

Action Planning: Bridging the Gap (continued)

José Rivera, J.D., Welfare Peer TA Network

11:15 – 11:30 AM

Closing Remarks

John Hougén, TANF Administrator, ND Department of Human Services

John Horejsi, Federal Project Officer, Welfare Peer TA Network